

Appl. No. 10/797,420

Amdt. dated 19 October 2006

Reply to Office action of 20 July 2006

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

As mentioned above, Fig. 4 is amended. The reference No. 9 is amended to 19 in order to correspond to the specification. Figs. 5a and 5b have also been added to replace the original Fig. 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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**Arguments:**

Regarding the claim rejections under 35 USC 112, I have amended the claims as mentioned above in order to clarify the invention.

Regarding your refusal against Claim 1 in view of the Arnedo patent (US6,655,262) and the Birkert patent (US5,044,263), I submit that the structure of the subject invention is substantially different from the Arnedo patent and the Birkert patent. In both the Arnedo patent (US6,655,262) and the Birkert patent (US5,044,263), the bread-holding carriage is moved by an electromagnet. In contrast, the lifting rack in the subject invention is moved by a set of gears, a set of clutch gears and a driving gear bar driven by a low voltage direct current motor.

You consider that "transformer installed to reduce the voltage of the alternating current which supplies power to the circuit board through rectifier device" is being anticipated by the Arnedo patent. Although I agree with your view about the function of the transformer, rectifier device and the diode rectifier, I would like to emphasize that the above components are not the main features of the subject invention.

One of the main features of the subject invention as mentioned in Claim 1 is the use of low voltage direct current motor for driving the movement of the lifting rack. In contrast to alternative current motor used by conventional toasters, the use of low voltage direct current motor significantly reduces the manufacturing costs of the toaster. The gear structure of the subject invention is specially adapted to cater for the relatively low voltage of low voltage direct current motor for driving the lifting rack in the subject invention. The use of low voltage direct current not only saves manufacturing costs but also enhances safety of the toaster. This is because even if the circuit which controls the power supply to the motor for driving the lifting gear is out of order, or if the fingers of a person are accidentally stuck inside the toaster, it is possible for users to manually stop the movement of the lifting rack.

As the Arnedo patent and the Birkert patent mentions nothing about the gear mechanism of the subject invention, the gear structure and the use of low voltage direct current motor should not be considered as being anticipated by the Arnedo patent and the Birkert patent. Therefore, this Patent is of inventiveness. Please kindly grant relevant Patent Right.

Respectively submitted,  
By Applicant:



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